

SPANISH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFERENCES IN THE PRODUCTION AND SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

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1. Introduction

Scientific journals have a fundamental role in the different stages of the research activity, since they are the way in which researchers obtain recognition for their contributions to scientific progress. The publication of a work in a prestigious journal can help to increase the personal and social recognition of professors and researchers, also conditioning directly the progression in their academic career. One of the aspects that most differentiates some disciplines from others is related to the vehicle of dissemination of research results, but, in addition, in some disciplines, as in the case of Psychology, it is observed that there are also some differences in the publication habits and research dissemination. The objective of this work is to identify and characterize the publication habits of researchers working in Psychology at Spanish institutions.

2. Methodology

The data has been extracted from the *Web of Science* (WoS) database. The period of the study covers the years 2008 till 2017. We identified the works published in Psychology journals that are included in the *Journal Citation Reports* (SCI and SSCI) throughout the period examined. The research analyses all the aspects related to the Spanish scientific production in Psychology in the 11 psychological thematic areas existing in the databases used as sources of information and those related to scientific collaboration, in order to know and to compare the differences between the diverse thematic areas dedicated to Psychology.

3. Results

15,563 Psychology works carried out in Spanish institutions were analyzed. When the Spanish scientific production is analyzed according to the thematic areas (see Tables 1 and 2) in which the journals where these works have been published are included, it is observed that it is the category *P. Multidisciplinary* (6,297 papers), where more works have been published throughout the period analyzed; followed by the *Psychology* category of the JCR – SCI (3,875 works) and *P. Experimental* with 2,742 papers. On the contrary, the thematic areas with the lowest scientific output during the analyzed period are *P. Psychoanalysis* (68 works), *P. Mathematical* (298 works) and *P. Educational* (795 papers).

Table 1. Evolution of the number of papers per year and thematic area

Years	Psychology	PA	PB	PC	PD	PE	PEX	PM	PMU	PP	PS
2008	365	54	62	147	59	54	178	29	977	6	67
2009	283	112	92	148	68	71	261	36	389	3	68
2010	317	78	77	175	99	105	252	30	481	6	76
2011	339	116	72	218	113	77	250	24	508	3	77
2012	399	116	82	185	94	69	279	24	618	4	87
2013	458	124	105	186	134	86	304	29	567	15	82
2014	495	128	90	264	111	86	316	34	620	3	101
2015	396	136	77	271	321	88	296	30	642	15	82
2016	447	203	90	280	100	82	312	32	750	8	100
2017	376	227	89	295	129	77	294	30	745	5	104
Total	3875	1294	836	2169	1228	795	2742	298	6297	68	844

Psychology (SC): PA=Psychology Applied; PB= Psychology Biological; PC= Psychology Clinical; PD= Psychology Developmental; PE= Psychology Educational; PEX= Psychology Experimental; PM=Psychology Multidisciplinary; PP=Psychology Psychoanalysis; PS=Psychology Social.

4. Conclusions

This study shows the existence of different production and collaboration habits among the specialties within the Psychology field. Therefore, it is concluded that it is necessary to find an appropriate method that can serve to evaluate the activity of the different specialties in the most objective possible way by taking into account each of the different characteristics and peculiarities of the 11 psychological categories available in the JCR

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Figure 1. Evolution of Scientific collaboration in Psychology

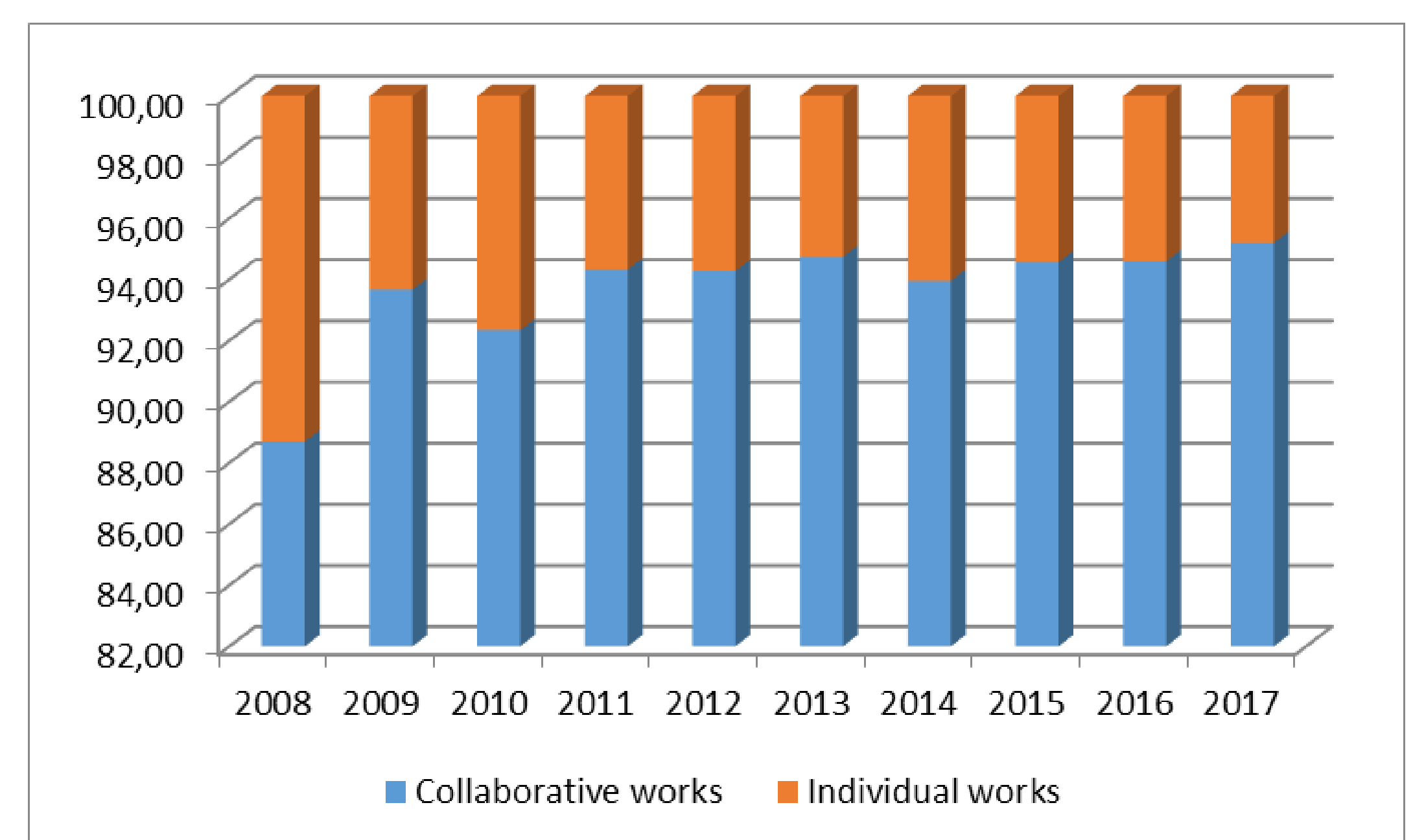


Table 2. Scientific collaboration per thematic areas (2008-2017)

Psychology Thematic areas	% Individual papers	% Collaborative papers
P. Applied	6,65%	93,35%
P. Biological	3,59%	96,41%
P. Clinical	4,79%	95,21%
P. Developmental	7,49%	92,51%
P. Educational	7,67%	92,33%
P. Experimental	4,45%	95,55%
P. Mathematical	15,10%	84,90%
P. Multidisciplinary	7,62%	92,38%
P. Psychoanalysis	42,65%	60,29%
P. Social	6,87%	93,13%
Psychology (SCIE)	4,59%	95,41%